

Section 4 Language of the Road

SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

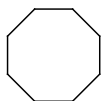
A SAFE DRIVER ALWAYS CONSIDERS SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS WHILE MAKING DRIVING DECISIONS.

Traffic signs inform you about traffic rules and hazards. They must be obeyed or you could crash and get a traffic ticket. Signs inform you where you are, how to get to where you want to go, and they inform you where there are services. Each type of sign is identified by shape and color.

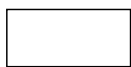
Know These Signs by Their Shape

SIGN SHAPE

A sign's shape is the first thing you will see. You need to know what a sign's shape means in case it is covered by snow or dirt.



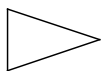
STOP SIGN



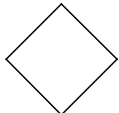
GUIDE SIGN



YIELD SIGN



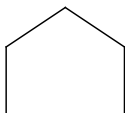
NO PASSING ZONE



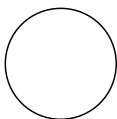
WARNING OF POSSIBLE DANGER



INFORMATION ON DRIVING RULES AND LAWS



SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS



RAILROAD CROSSING

Know These Signs by Their Color



RED Stop, yield or you can't do something



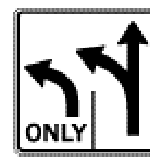
YELLOW Warning



BRIGHT Yellow-Green Warning
(Fluorescent Yellow-Green)



WHITE Information, rules and laws



BLACK Regulatory, rules and laws



GREEN Guide



BLUE Information

You can get services and help
GasHospital



ORANGE Construction

The road is being fixed and people are working on or near the road



Flagger



BROWN Parks and recreation areas



Restroom



Boat Launch



Hiking Trail

Know These Signs

OCTAGON



A **STOP** sign is the only 8-sided traffic sign.

- Come to a **COMPLETE** stop
- Do not drive into the intersection before you stop
- Do not drive into the crosswalk before you stop

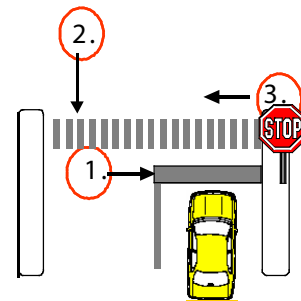
Just slowing down for a stop sign is against the law. You must **STOP**.



Where to Stop

The three legal stop positions:

1. Before the Stop Line, or
2. Before the Crosswalk, or
3. Before the Intersection



Watch for cars, bicycles and pedestrians before driving ahead

1. look **LEFT**, 
2. then **RIGHT**, 
3. then **STRAIGHT AHEAD**, and 
4. then **LEFT** again. 

If you can't see traffic on the road, move forward slowly until you can see. Wait until it is safe and your path of travel is clear before driving ahead.

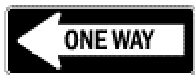
TRIANGLE

A **YIELD** sign is a red triangle pointing down. **YIELD** means give the right of way. The sign means slow down to a safe, reasonable speed and wait for cars on the other road to go first. You must yield the right of way to cars, bikes and pedestrians on the road you want to cross or enter. Yield means wait and let other cars go first.



Know These Signs

Signs inform drivers what to do, and what **NOT** to do, so that traffic moves properly and safely.



The road ahead is a one-way street.



All vehicles are prohibited. Do not enter.

The red circle and stripe means NO.



These signs tell you not to do something.

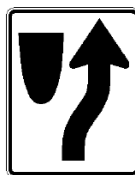


NO U TURN means you cannot turn around to go in the opposite direction at this intersection. Pull into a parking lot to turn and go the other way.

RECTANGLE

Most regulatory and information signs are rectangles.

Drivers must obey the rules on all regulatory signs.



Know These Signs

DIAMOND Most warning signs are yellow diamonds.

They tell you of possible danger ahead. Slow down and watch carefully.



ROUND This sign warns about railroad crossings.

The RR on the sign means Railroad.

ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!

Watch for trains. Slow down, look and listen for trains. Be prepared to STOP and wait when a train is coming. NEVER stop on train tracks.



The law requires you to stop for trains.

Trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That's 18 football fields!

Do not be fooled — the train you see is closer and faster moving than you think. Look both ways. If you see a train approaching, wait for it to go by before you cross the tracks.



Know These Signs

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

FIVE-SIDED School signs look like a building.



School ahead. Slow to **20 mph** or other posted speed limit.

Watch for children **AT ALL TIMES**.



A school bus might be stopped up ahead.
Maybe you cannot see it because of a hill
or curve.
Be ready to stop.



Know These Signs



One warning sign is pennant shaped.

Do Not Pass any vehicles going in the same direction
as you are going while in the No Passing Zone.



When you have passed this sign, you are again permitted to pass other
vehicles if it is safe to do so.

DO NOT PASS



YOU MAY PASS



The solid yellow line in the road means **DO NOT PASS**.

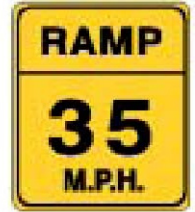
Warning Signs



Some warning signs inform about the top safe speed. You should not drive faster than 35 mph on the turn ahead.



If the road is bad or the weather is bad, drive even more slowly into the curve.



The road is ICY, SLIPPERY and DANGEROUS.

Slow down. Never use cruise control when roads are wet or icy.



Merging Signs

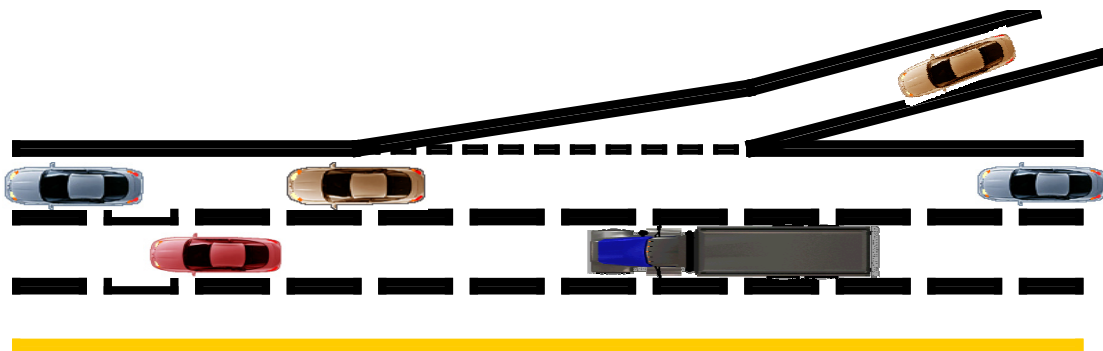
MERGING signs show drivers where to expect the direction of more traffic.



MERGING means joining. More traffic may be going to join the roadway and drive along the same lane.

When you see a merging car ahead, drivers should signal and move over to the other lane if they can safely change lanes.

Sometimes the driver in the merging car has to yield, slow down and wait for a safe gap in highway traffic.



Roundabouts are circular roads around a center island with access to several roads heading out in different directions. Yield to traffic already driving in the roundabout. Find a safe gap. Merge with the flow of traffic, signal and turn right onto the road you need.



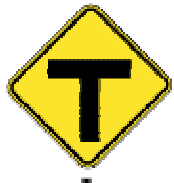
Warning Signs



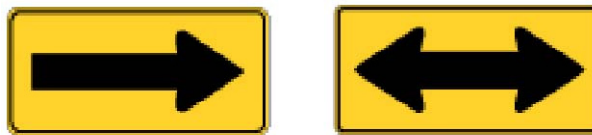
A side road enters or crosses the highway ahead.
Watch out for cars entering or slowing down to turn.



There are sharp turns and curves in the road ahead.
REDUCE SPEED. Slow down.
Keep well to the right. Watch for approaching traffic.



The road you are on comes to an end ahead.
REDUCE SPEED.
You will have to turn either right or left.



Watch the road ahead.
Some signs warn that the road changes direction in a way that could surprise a driver.



You are approaching an overhead obstruction. It might be an old bridge or a low underpass. If you have a high load, you may not be able to get through.

Warning Signs – What They Mean (YELLOW AND BLACK)

There are more signs that warn about people and animals crossing the roadway.

Remember: XING means CROSSING.

Walking people are called **PEDESTRIANS**. That word is too big for the sign, so just **PED** is used. Pedestrians may be crossing the road ahead. Slow down and stop when a person is waiting or crossing the road.

REMEMBER: always give pedestrians the right of way regardless of where they are located.

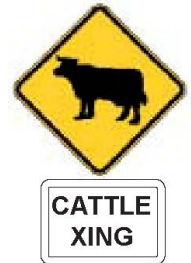


These warning signs are only in high wildlife crossing areas but deer are found everywhere in Montana. Watch out for animals at all times. Slow down when you see deer. There may be more than one crossing the road ahead.



A highway often splits a farm. This sign shows where livestock may be crossing the road.

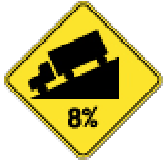
There are no fences and cattle may wander out onto the road. Watch the road ahead. Cattle have the right of way.



Be careful. Be ready to stop for any animals on the road.



Warning Signs – What They Mean (YELLOW AND BLACK)



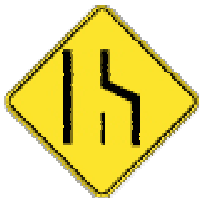
The road ahead goes **DOWNHILL**. Trucks gear down and will be going slowly. Watch for them. You may have to slow down or change lanes. **SLOW DOWN.**



The bridge ahead may be too narrow to meet or pass a truck, you must be careful. The road is not as wide as the road you are traveling. There will be room for cars to meet and pass. You **MAY** have to wait for oncoming vehicles to cross.



There **IS NOT ROOM** on the bridge ahead to meet or pass a car or truck.

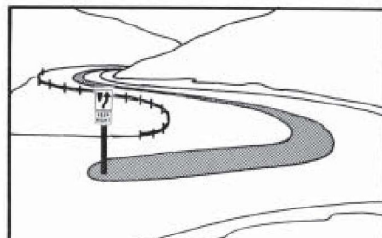


When a lane ends you may see a warning sign like this one. When the right lane ends, signal, watch for other traffic and change lanes. Do not stay in the outer lane. You might be forced off the pavement.



Traffic must keep to the right of the median.

In the diagram below, the roadway is separated by a median.



Keep right, drive it as a one-way road.

Regulatory Signs

Regulatory means you **MUST** obey.

Regulatory signs define the laws drivers must obey

You are coming to a place where the speed limit is lower.

If you go faster than the posted speed limit you could get a speeding ticket.



Visibility is limited at night. Your speed will be limited too.

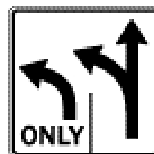


LANE SIGNS inform you where you can go from certain lanes.



Look ahead for arrows at intersections.

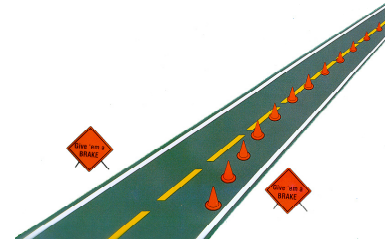
Stay in your lane when turning.



Construction Area Signs

(ORANGE AND BLACK)

ORANGE signs warn of road **CONSTRUCTION**.



The road is being built or repaired ahead. Drive slowly. Be alert. Workers may be on or near the road. Heavy machinery may be crossing the road. Watch for and follow directions of flaggers who may be standing near the road.



Construction signs can give drivers many warnings

Highways must be repaired. Work crews must be protected.



Loose gravel can cause your car to lose control and skid. Gravel can be thrown onto your windshield by another car.



One side of the road is soft. Don't drive off the pavement.



A place in the road is not finished. You will have to go around. Signs with arrows will show you where to go.

Guide Signs

Signs help drivers find the right way to go.

Guide signs are on maps. Drivers can study the map and watch for highway numbers and route markers.



Blue signs mean services are nearby.



Camping



Gas



Hospital



Brown signs show where to find parks and other recreation areas.



Restroom



Picnic Area



Hiking Area



Snowmobile Trail



Interstate Highways are numbered from West to East.

Even Numbered Highways go East and West (e.g. I -90).

Odd Numbered Highways go North and South (e.g. I -15).

Mile post markers tell your location and number each exit.

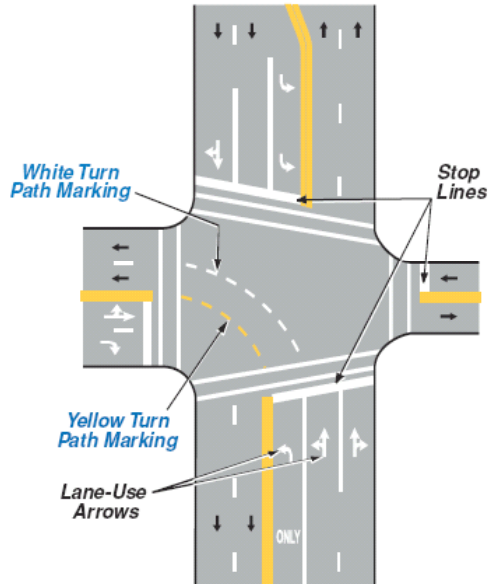


Road and Pavement Markings

Watch out for and obey pavement markings.

White lines separate traffic lanes going in the same direction. Stay in your lane when turning. Follow the turn path markings on the road.

Turn Arrows



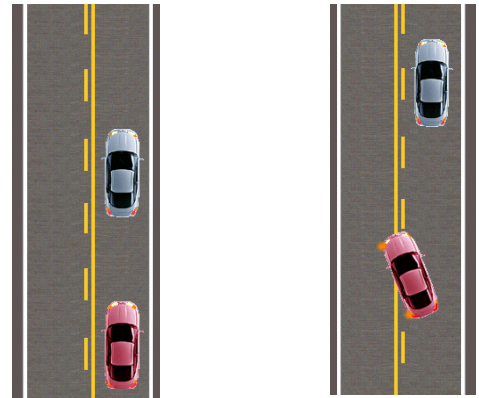
Yellow Road Centerline

No passing is allowed when solid yellow line is in your lane.

When overtaking and passing another vehicle it is permissible to drive a vehicle to the left of the centerline on a two lane highway if you can pass safely.

Look ahead and wait for a path of travel clear of cars coming from the opposite direction. You need enough time to return safely to your travel lane.

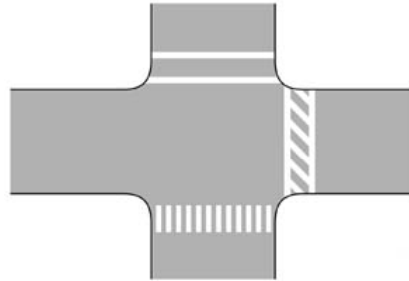
Passing Markings



ROAD AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pedestrian Crosswalk

Pedestrians are people walking. Crosswalks are marked with white lines or colored pavement. Always **STOP** when people are waiting to cross the street. No parking is allowed in the crosswalk or in the intersection.



Intersection with three marked Crosswalks

Curb Markings

No parking is allowed next to a curb painted yellow, white or red.

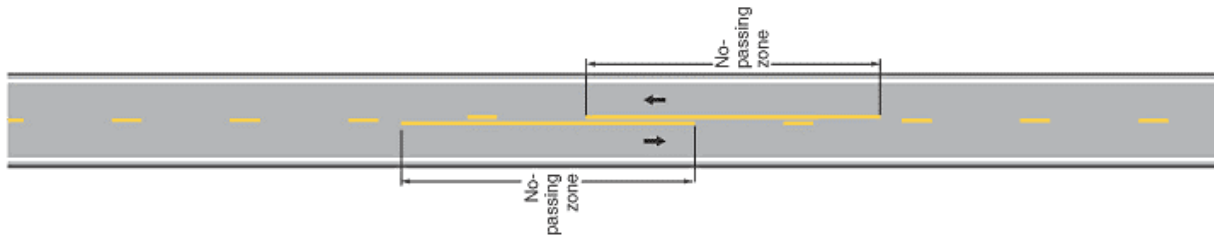


Only people with disabilities who have a special parking permit are allowed to park in blue handicapped parking spaces.

Road Center Line

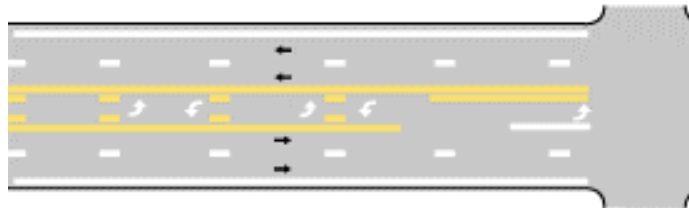
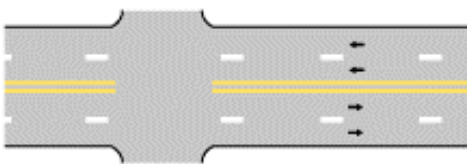
No Passing Zone - when **SOLID** yellow line is in your lane

Passing Allowed - when **BROKEN** yellow line is in your lane



Single Solid White Line – The white Fog Line marks the side of the road

Single Broken White Line – divides one-way lanes going in the same direction



Shared Center Turn Lane for left turns and U turns if permitted. It can be used by vehicles traveling in both directions, Watch for other vehicles in the shared lane. Do not use this lane to pass or slow down for a turn.



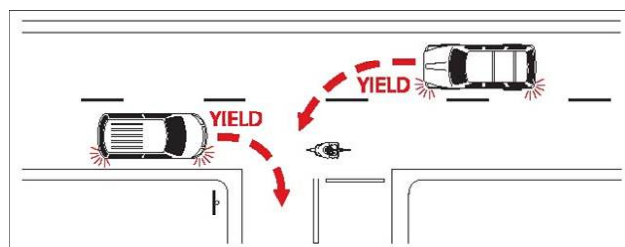
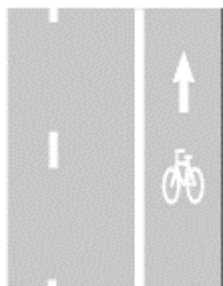
Bicycle Lanes - can be used only by bicycles.

Do not park or drive in Bike-Only lanes.



Bicycles ride with traffic on the right side of the road. Share the road and be careful when passing bicycles.

Bike-Only Lane

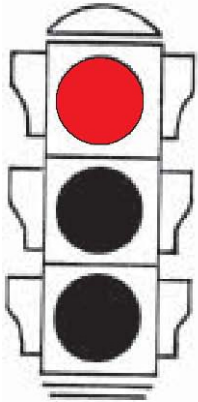


Graphic courtesy of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Governor's Traffic Safety Committee New York Bicycling Coalition

When turning, wait for the bicyclist to pass and make sure he is clear from your vehicle before making your turn

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

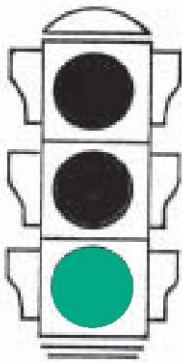
Obey all traffic signals.



It is a dangerous and foolish mistake to disobey traffic signals.
Always look ahead and wait for traffic to clear before crossing a road.

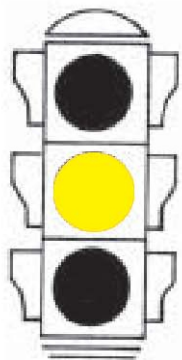
STOP—The red light is always at the top.

Do not go until the light changes to green and the path of travel is clear.



The green light is always at the bottom.

It means go, **after you look** to your left, right and ahead to make sure your path of travel is clear before moving.



The yellow light means get ready to stop.

Do not drive into the intersection if you can safely stop.
You must not be in the intersection when the light turns red.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS



The traffic signal light is **GREEN** for **GO**.
Pedestrians may walk now in the same direction traffic is going if the intersection is clear. Watch for pedestrians if you are turning.

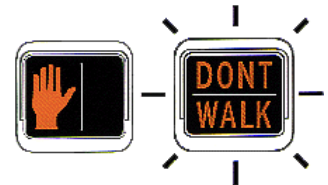


You must always yield to pedestrians.
Wait for people to cross the street.



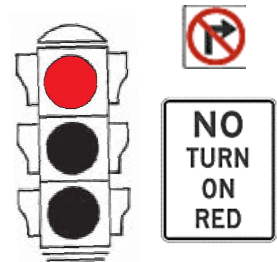
Even though the light is green for “Go,” the words tell pedestrians that **THEY MUST NOT LEAVE THE CURB NOW**. The flashing **DON'T WALK** sign means there is not enough time to safely cross the street.

Some pedestrians disobey. They think they can leave the curb because the light is green. Watch out and wait for people to cross the street.



RIGHT TURN ON RED

You may turn right on red **AFTER STOPPING** in every state. Right turns at red lights are allowed after you stop unless there is a sign that says you may not turn. Stop and look for a clear path of travel before turning.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS – Turn Arrows

STOP

Do **NOT** go straight ahead. Turn **LEFT** when the arrow is **GREEN**, and turn only the way the arrow points.

STOP

Do **NOT** go straight ahead.

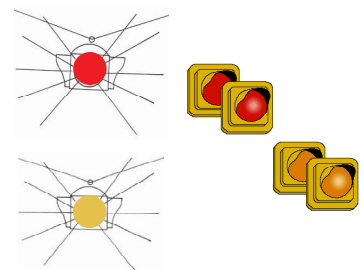
Turn **RIGHT** when the arrow is **GREEN**, and turn only the way the arrow points.



FLASHING LIGHTS

The **RED LIGHT** flashing means **STOP**.

The **YELLOW LIGHT** flashing or steady means **SLOW DOWN**.
Watch for other vehicles. Use **CAUTION**.



WORDS ON TRAFFIC SIGNS

You should know what these words mean

AHEAD	ENDS	MOTORISTS	SHOULDERS
AIRPORT	ENFORCED	MOTORIZED	SIDE
ALL WAY	ENTER	NARROW	SIGNALS
ALTERNATIVE	ENTRANCE	NIGHT	SINGLE
ARROW	EXCEPT	NORTH	SLIPPERY
BEGIN	EXCLUDED	OBEY	SLOW
BETWEEN SIGNS	EXEMPT	OCCUPIED	SOFT
BEYOND	EXIT	OIL	SOUTH
BIKE	EXPRESSWAY	ONCOMING	SPEED
BLOCK	FACING	ONE	STEEP
BUMP	FALLEN ROCK	ONLY	STOP
BUS	FEET	OUTLET	STREET
BUSINESS	FLASHING	OUTSIDE	SURVEY CREW
BYPASS	GRADE	PARK	TEMPORARY
CAREFUL	GRAVEL	PASS	THREE
CAREFULLY	HIGHWAY	PAVEMENT	THRU
CATTLE	HILL	PED	TONS
CAUTION	HITCHHIKING	PEDESTRIAN	TOW AWAY ZONE
CLEARANCE	HOSPITAL	PICK-UP	TRACKS
CLOSED	ICY	PLAYGROUND	TRAILER HITCH
COMMERCIAL	INCREASE	PRESENT	TRUCKS
CONSTRUCTION	INTERSECTION	PROCEED	TURN
CONTROLLED	INTERSTATE	PROHIBITED	TWO
COUNTY	JUNCTION	PUSH BUTTON	UNLAWFUL
CROSSING	KEEP	RADAR	USES
CROSSROAD	LANE	RAILROAD	VILLAGE
CROSSWALK	LAW	RAMP	WALK
CURB	LEFT	RANGE	WARNING
DECREASE	LIMIT	REDUCE	WAY
DEER	LOCAL	RESERVED	WEIGH STATION
DETOUR	LODGING	REST AREA	WEST
DIP	LOOSE	RESTRICTED	WET
DIRECTION	LOW	RESUME	WINDING
DIVIDED	LUGS	RIGHT	WORK
DO NOT	MACHINERY	ROAD	WRONG
DOUBLE	MAINTENANCE	ROUGH	XING
DOWN	MERGING	ROUTE	YIELD
EAST	MINIMUM	SCHOOL	YOUR
EMERGENCY	MOTORCYCLE	SHARP	ZONE

SELF TEST Section 4 Language of the Road

SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Directions: Choose only one answer.

1. The sign pictured at the right means that:

- a. there is a bus stop ahead
- b. there is a stop sign ahead
- c. there is a caution sign ahead
- d. there is a No Passing Zone ahead.



2. The sign pictured at the right means that:

- a. you must drive slowly and sound horn
- b. you must watch for children in this area
- c. you must watch for children during school hours
- d. school ahead – slow down and watch for children at all times



3. The sign pictured at the right means that:

- a. the highway ahead turns only to the right
- b. the highway ahead turns to the left and then to the right
- c. the highway ahead turns sharply to the right
- d. the highway ahead turns to the right and then the left



4. The sign pictured at the right means that:

- a. trucks are permitted on a narrow bridge
- b. the bridge ahead is open to one way traffic only
- c. the bridge ahead is wide enough for one car at a time
- d. the bridge ahead may be too narrow to meet or pass a vehicle, you must be careful



5. The sign pictured at the right means that:

- a. there is a detour ahead
- b. you must stop for flaggers
- c. the road ahead is closed to traffic
- d. the highway ahead is being repaired, approach with caution



6. The sign pictured at the right means that:
- a. there are trucks hauling gravel ahead
 - b. the highway ahead is under construction
 - c. the highway ahead is covered with loose gravel
 - d. the highway ahead has been sanded for icy conditions



7. It is permissible to drive a motor vehicle to the left of the centerline of a two-lane highway:
- a. when overtaking and passing another vehicle
 - b. when you have 500 feet of clear road ahead and to the rear
 - c. when the shoulder of the road is rough and the ditch is deep
 - d. when the road is clear of cars coming from the opposite direction
8. The shared center lane is reserved for:
- a. making left turns
 - b. u-turns when they are permitted.
 - c. all vehicles traveling in both directions
 - d. all of the above
9. At a traffic light which is flashing yellow:
- a. you must stop and wait for the red
 - b. you must stop and wait for the green
 - c. you must slow down and proceed with caution
 - d. you can make a U turn
10. You may turn right on red:
- a. if there is a sign that says you can
 - b. after stopping if your path of travel is clear
 - c. after slowing down
 - d. only in Montana
11. If the "Don't Walk" signal is on, a pedestrian:
- a. may cross if no cars are coming.
 - b. must not cross; there is not enough time to cross safely
 - c. should stop in the intersection
 - d. must wait for a red light

12. This sign means:

- a. a school bus may be stopped ahead
- b. everyone must stop ahead
- c. yield right of way to buses
- d. watch for bicycles



13. This sign means:

- a. you must slow if you see cars
- b. slow down, give right of way to cars on right
- c. Stop
- d. slow down to a reasonable speed and yield to other vehicles



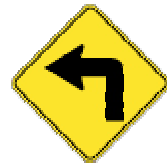
14. This sign means:

- a. sharp curve ahead.
- b. the road turns to the right.
- c. there is a road entering the highway from the right.
- d. there is a crossroad ahead



15. This sign means:

- a. the road turns sharply to the left
- b. the road turns gradually to the left
- c. winding road ahead
- d. the road turns to the right



16. This sign means:

- a. there is a crossroads ahead.
- b. there is a railroad crossing ahead
- c. stop ahead
- d. there is a rest room ahead



17. This sign means:

- a. stop if you see cattle.
- b. cattle crossing ahead.
- c. there are no fences and cattle may wander onto the road.
Be prepared to stop
- d. deer cross the road here



18. This sign means:

- a. you may turn to the right
- b. you must not turn left at this street
- c. you must go straight.
- d. the road curves



19. This sign means:

- a. you may pass if it is clear ahead
- b. do not pass without honking horn
- c. slow down in a school zone
- d. you must not pass the car ahead it is not safe



20. This sign means:

- a. you must stop if other cars are coming.
- b. yield to cars on the road ahead
- c. you must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection ahead.
- d. you must stop before turning.



21. This sign means:

- a. there is only room for one lane of traffic
- b. Right lane ends, merge left
- c. you are coming to a gravel road
- d. this is a one way road

